RG104 E-1 Box 139

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 11th, May —, *1886.*

Sir,

We have just received an Invoice of fine Silver Bars from the Kansas City Smelting and Refining Co. under date of May 9th, and I may mention that they are similar to those formerly received and discussed, as very objectionable, and unsatisfactory in their characted, and admitted to be unfit tobe received.

The greater number of them have been carelessly cast, leaving on the top depressions and protuberances, which have been more or less roughly levelled off by hammering. On behalf of the Government I would ask how do we know what impurities might have been accidentally concealed by hammering, rendering it impracticable to determine the true weight and value without melting each bar. Moreover the actual present weight differs in some of

RG104 E-1 Box 139

the bars from the alleged weight; in one case as much as 18 ounces short of weight, and possibly due to water caught in the act of casting the metal.

We ought therefore to melt such bars preliminary to determining their true weight. But all the furnaces we have at command in the Mint, and all our melting force could not execute the amount we have been doing, if we were obliged to melt many bars prior to their being received by, and debited to, the Government. All our space, means and time are not sufficient to do all such work as might be demanded. Moreover the reception of bars of doubtful value is apt to cause unpleasant discussions of values and losses between the Depositors and the Government.

It seems to me that the difficulties can only be met and harmonized by requiring Depositors to supply only well melted bars.

Very Respectfully

I. P. C. Booth

Hon. D. M. Fox

Superintendent

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 139

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
May 14, 1886

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